

HIGHLIGHTS

Record heat, humidity, thunderstorms ... it must be almost time for the Joint Statistical Meetings!!! If you haven't already done so, plan on joining us in Anaheim, August 10 - 14, 1997. The theme for this year's program is "Shaping Statistics for Success in the 21st Century."

On-line registration is now available at the ASA Web site: <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/1997/>.

For a summary of SRMS' exciting sessions for this year's meetings, see pages 2-4. The complete JSM program and abstracts are also available on-line at <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/1997/program/>.

In Memoriam — James T. Massey, 1941-1997

James T. Massey, former Chief of the Survey Design Staff in the Office of Research and Methodology in the National Center for Health Statistics died on May 3 of an allergic reaction. Dr. Massey came to the Center in 1974 and became the Chief of the Survey Design Staff in 1980. He retired from Federal Service on September 30, 1996. For the last six months he was a senior fellow at Mathematica Policy Research where he designed research projects using advanced statistical modeling and analysis techniques.

While at NCHS, he was instrumental in designing and carrying out many national surveys of nutrition, health care and health insurance in the United States. Of particular note, he was involved in the design of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys and he directed the 1995 redesign of the National Health Interview Survey. He worked closely with CDC staff on the design and implementation of the National Immunization Survey and the pilot test for the National Household Seroprevalence (HIV) Survey.

Dr. Massey made important contributions to statistical theory, and his research on telephone survey methodology advanced the methods used throughout the federal government. He published widely and was known for his leadership in communicating methodological advances to the statistical community. His contributions were also important to a broad spectrum of social scientists as well as consumers of health statistics.

He was a member of the American Statistical Association, the Washington Statistical Society, the International Association of Survey Statisticians and the American Public Health Association. He was recently elected a Fellow of the American Statistical Association.

Dr. Massey, a native of North Carolina, was a graduate of North Carolina State University and received his master's and doctorate degrees in statistics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He was actively involved in the Lowes Island golf community and had recently won the senior club championship. He played interclub competitive golf for years and had begun to compete in senior amateur events in the region.

Dr. Massey was an adjunct professor at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University and taught at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and George Washington University.

Survivors include his wife, Devra, and two children, Andrea Massey of Portsmouth, N.H., and Michael Massey of Arlington, VA. He is also survived by his mother Christine Massey, his brother John Massey and sister Lou Watson.

Joint Statistical Meeting Schedule Highlights
Sessions Sponsored by the Survey Research Methods Section

Sunday, August 10, 1997

2:00 PM - 3:50 PM

Session	Title
19	"Sampling, Mode, Weighting and Imputation Issues in School Surveys" - Special Contributed Session
20	Imputation and Advances Regression Methods in the Analyses of Survey Data - Regular Contributed Session

4:00 PM - 5:50 PM

27	Synthesis of CASM II: Current and Future Directions in Interdisciplinary - Invited Panel Session
39	"Data Analyses, Outlier Detection" - Regular Contributed Session
40	Design and Estimation for Establishment Surveys - Regular Contributed Session

Monday, August 11, 1997

8:30 AM - 10:20 AM

50	Quality of US Business Establishment Frames - Invited Session
65	Issues for Interviewing and Questionnaire Design - Regular Contributed Session
66	Variance Estimates with Survey Data - Regular Contributed Session

10:30 AM - 12:20 PM

88	Current Employment Statistics Survey Redesign: Solicitation and Birth/Death - Special Contributed Session
89	Use of Auxiliary Information in Estimation - Regular Contributed Session
90	Questionnaire Testing for Census 2000 - Regular Contributed Session

2:00 PM - 3:50 PM

101	"Preserving Privacy, Not Just Confidentiality" - Invited Session
118	Survey Nonresponse and Imputation-I - Regular Contributed Session
119	"Measurement, Sampling and Response Errors in Surveys" - Regular Contributed Session

Tuesday, August 12, 1997

8:30 AM - 10:20 AM

127	"Design, Analysis, and Use of Satisfaction Surveys" - Invited Session
143	"Administrative Records, Privacy and Confidentiality" - Regular Contributed Session
144	Missing Data and Economic Analysis - Panel Session

Tuesday, August 12, 1997

10:30 AM - 12:20 PM

Session	Title
169	Issues in Occupational and Compensation Surveys - Regular Contributed Session
170	"Survey, Census, and Sample Design" - Regular Contributed Session

2:00 PM - 3:50 PM

199	Current Employment Statistics Survey Redesign: Sample Design and Estimation - Special Contributed Session
200	The Jackknife and Other Replication Methods for Variance Estimation - Regular Contributed Session

Wednesday, August 13, 1997

8:30 AM - 10:20 AM

211	Calibration Estimation with Many Benchmarks - Invited Session
226	Editing and Adjusting the Survey Database - Special Contributed Session
227	Surveys of Employees in the Federal Statistical System - Special Contributed Session

10:30 AM - 12:20 PM

252	Survey Nonresponse and Imputation II - Regular Contributed Session
253	Issues in Health/Medical Surveys - Regular Contributed Session
254	Survey Sample Design and Estimation - Regular Contributed Session

2:00 PM - 3:50 PM

282	Census 2000 Design Research - Special Contributed Session
283	Sampling with Random Digit Dialing (RDD) - Regular Contributed Session

Thursday, August 13, 1997

8:30 AM - 10:20 AM

304	Census 2000 Estimation Research - Special Contributed Session
305	Aspects of Sample Design - Regular Contributed Session

10:30 AM - 12:20 PM

310	Surveying the Environment in the 21st Century: Advancing Theory and Addressing Institutional Constraints - Invited Session
322	The USDA's Continuing Survey of Food Intakes: Issues and Applications - Special Contributed Session
323	Validating the Accuracy of Survey Data - Regular Contributed Session

Joint Statistical Meeting Schedule Highlights

A Time for Survey Samplers to Revisit Their Roots

The International Indian Statistical Association (IISA) has organized two technical sessions on Survey sampling. The two sessions are in memory of Professor P.V. Sukhatme and his contribution to survey sampling, particularly in food, agriculture, health and nutrition. The sessions are on August 10, 1997 and are described below:

August 10, 1997, 2:00 PM - 3:50 PM

Survey Sampling I

Chair: Malay Ghosh, *U of Florida, Gainesville*

- (2:05) Implications of Different Approaches in Nutrition Surveys
GLADYS BLOCK, *U of California, Berkeley*
- (2:30) Variance Estimation for Two Phase Sampling
WAYNE FULLER, *Iowa State U*
- (2:55) Dual Frame Surveys
J.N.K. RAO, *Carleton U, Ottawa, Canada*
- (3:20) On the Pre-Eminence of the New General Estimator in Sampling Theory
J.N. SRIVASTAVA, *Colorado State U*
- (3:45) Floor Discussion

August 10, 1997, 4:00 PM - 5:50 PM

Survey Sampling II

Chair: Shashi Sukhatme, *Iowa State U*

- (4:05) Professor Sukhatme's Contribution to Survey Sampling
RANJAN K. SOM, *Consultant, United Nations*
- (4:30) Comparability in Multi-Country Survey Programmes
VIJAY K. VERMA, *U of Essex, United Kingdom*
- (4:55) Sample Surveys: Some Reminiscences
V.P. GODAMBE, *U of Waterloo, Canada*
- (5:20) Sample Surveys: Foundations
D. BASU, *Florida State U and Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta*
- (5:45) Floor Discussion

For further information, please contact the organizer:

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Statistical Society of Canada

The Statistical Society of Canada's (SSC) participation in the JSM is somewhat smaller than the other co-sponsoring societies. However, it tends to be a powerful program with a distinctly Canadian flavor. This year, the SSC's two Invited Sessions were organized with input from the two SSC sections: the Biostatistics Section and the Survey Methods section.

The Survey Methods Invited Session deals with analysis of longitudinal survey data and its relation to shaping the future of statistics. Even through survey organizations have not usually been involved directly in policy making, more organizations are being asked to transform the data collected through surveys into information that is useful to policy analysts. In some cases, this request is being handled by developing longitudinal surveys. These surveys, by following people through time, provide a first step towards the study of casual-effects models. However, longitudinal data obtained in a survey do have limitations. The papers in this session will try to present some of the issues related to longitudinal data analysis in a survey context.

The Longitudinal Survey Data Analysis Session is both an applied as well as a theme sessions. It was organized by Sylvie Michaud of Statistics Canada, with papers to be presented by Jerry Lawless of University of Waterloo, Michel Latouche of Statistics Canada, and Jean Marie Berthelot of Statistics Canada. The papers will be discussed by Jim Lepkowski of University of Michigan. The session is sure to be interesting and lively - reserve 2 PM on Wednesday for this event.

- * Look for SRMS members at Sunday evening's mixer!
- * Come to the Section's Business Meeting and Mixer -- Tuesday, August 12, at 5 PM. Refreshments will be served!
- * Plan to join the SRMS Executive Committee for an informal social after the Business Meeting!

For Your Information:

The 1996 Proceedings of the Survey Research Section are published and available through ASA. To order, see the June Amstat New, page 114. For a preview, the Table of Contents is available at <http://www.stat.ncsu.edu/info/srms/srms.html>.

Joint Statistical Meeting Schedule Highlights

The International Association of Survey Statisticians

Tuesday, August 12, 1997 — 10:30 AM - 12:20 PM

Invited Panel Session: What Role Should Methodologists Have in National Statistical Agencies?

Chair/Organizer: Dennis Trewin, Australian Bureau of Statistics

Panelists: Paul P. Biemer, *Research Triangle Institute*
David A. Binder, *Statistics Canada*
Don Dillman, *Bureau of the Census*
Lars Lyberg, *Statistics Sweden*
Joseph Waksberg, *Westat Inc.*

Maria Elena Gonzalez Memorial Session

Thursday, August 14, 1997 -- 10:30 AM - 12:20 PM

Organizer: Fritz J. Scheuren, *Ernst & Young*

Chair: Katherine K. Wallman, *Office of Management and Budget*

(10:35) The Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology

Barbara A. Bailar, *National Opinion Research Center*

(11:05) Developing Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fames D. Fitzsimmons, *US Bureau of the Census*

(11:35) Maria Elena Gonzalez' Role in International Activities and in Human Rights

Estela Bee Dagum, *U of Bologna, Italy*

(12:05) Floor Discussion

James T. Massey -- Dedicated Session

Wednesday, August 13, 1997, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Session 283 — Sampling with Random Digit Dialing (RDD)

Presentations include:

- An Improved Call-Scheduling Method Using Call History and Frame Information
 - Response Rates in RDD Telephone Surveys
 - Analysis Issues in Combining Two National Surveys of Households
 - A Telephone Survey Budgeting System
 - Examining the Reliability of Self-Reported Household Location Information RDD Telephone Surveys
 - Dual Frame RDD and Area Sample for Household Survey with Particular Focus on Low Income Population
-

Two New Pamphlets Completed and Available at the Anaheim Meetings

The *What Is a Survey?* series continues with the availability of two new pamphlets at the upcoming meetings.

- *What Are Focus Groups?*
- *More About Mail Surveys?*

Pamphlets will be mailed to all members this fall.

Stay tuned...

Four more pamphlets are in progress

A (Sampling) Statistician's Lot

by Barry Haworth

When the interviewer's chased by an Alsatian,
When she knocks on doors and everyone says 'no',
She won't think much of my sample allocation,
After all its me that told her where to go.

When respondents are awoken from their slumber,
Or we ring them when the cricket's on TV,
Then they curse the rotten sod who chose their number,
And I hope that they don't find out that it's me!

When there's Market Research Surveys to be done,
to be done,
A Statistician's lot is not a happy one!

When Researchers come a-ringing for a sample
That the client wants to run that very night,
You can see the time allowed is less than ample,
You can see you need not envy me my plight.

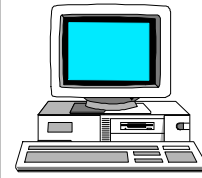
When the area they want is problematic,
When the client sample files are all askew,
When the research notes are brief and enigmatic,
Let me tell you that to me it's nothing new.

When there's Market Research Surveys to be done,
to be done,
A Statistician's lot is not a happy one!

This poem was prepared for an office video in December 1996 and sung to the tune of "A Policeman's Lot is not a Happy One", with apologies to Gilbert and Sullivan.

Barry Haworth is a Sampling Statistician at AGB McNair in North Sydney AUSTRALIA. He can be reached via e-mail at baryh@agb.com.au.

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SRMSNET Update

The SRMSNET continues to grow -- the current report shows that we now have 435 subscribers — this includes both Section and non-Section members!

Did you accidentally erase that IMPORTANT message you meant to keep? Have no fear, there is an archive of all SRMSNET messages broken down by week at: gopher://jse.stat.ncsu.edu/11/srmsnet/.

If you haven't signed on yet, join now...if you aren't on the list, you aren't in the know! To sign up, send a message to listserv@umdd.umd.edu and, in the body of the message type "subscribe SRMSNET your-full-name" (no quotes).

If your e-mail address changes you will need to unsubscribe and resubscribe with your new address. To unsubscribe, send a message to listserv@umdd.umd.edu and, in the body of the message type "unsubscribe SRMSNET" (no quotes). You can then resubscribe with your new address!

Upcoming Conferences...

1997 Joint Meeting of the Public Health Conference on Records and Statistics and the Data Users Conference -- The National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is pleased to announce this joint meeting, to be held July 28-31, 1997, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. The theme of the meeting is *Partnerships, Technologies, and Communities: Evolving Roles for Health Data*, and it will feature sessions on health information partnerships on the national, state, and local levels; information technology and informatics; and communities at risk. The conference will provide a national forum for the discussion about uses of data and data needs and present the latest information about NCHS programs and statistical resources and opportunities to work in partnership with NCHS to meet data needs. For more information, the NCHS Web page at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchswww/nchshome.htm>.

9th International Conference on Scientific and Statistical Database Management -- The SSDBM Conference will be held at the Evergreen State College campus, Olympia, WA, August 13-15, 1997. It brings together database researchers, practitioners, and developers, as well as domain scientists from multiple scientific disciplines to explore new concepts, tools, and techniques for scientific and statistical database applications. Both research and experience/challenge papers will be presented. For more information, see <http://www.cs.wisc.edu/~yannis/ssdbm.html>.

IASS/IAOS Satellite Meeting on Longitudinal Studies -- The International Association of Survey Statisticians, the International Association of Official Statistics, the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics, the Israel Statistical Association, and the Department of Statistics at Hebrew University are co-sponsoring a conference on Longitudinal Studies, August 27-31, 1997, in Jerusalem, Israel. The focus will be on design and analysis of sample surveys — both

prospective and retrospective — in which the same units are investigated with respect to several points of time or over periods of time. Fixed and rotating panel surveys and longitudinal studies based on administrative data or on censuses will be included. For more information on the meeting, to be held directly following the 1997 biennial meeting of ISI, contact Gad Nathan — phone: +972 2 653-371; fax: +9722 6522-319; e-mail: gad@olive.mssc.huji.ac.il or see the Web sit at <http://pluto.mssc.huji.ac.il/~gad/smls.html>.

Federal Forecasters Conference — The 9th Federal Forecasters Conference will be held at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Conference and Training Center at 2 Massachusetts Ave., N.E., Washington, DC, September 11, 1997. The theme of the Conference is “forecasting in an Era of Diminishing Resources.” The Conference Registration deadline is August 8. There is no charge for registration. For more information, contact: Debra Gerald, National Center for Educational Statistics, 555 New Jersey Ave., N.W., Room 408E, Washington, DC 20208; Phone: (202) 219-1581; e-mail: Debra_Gerald@ed.gov.

Symposium '97: New Directions in Surveys and Censuses -- Statistics Canada's XIV annual international methodology symposium will be held November 5-7, 1997, at the Palais des Congres conference facilities in Hull, just minutes from downtown Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. The Symposium will explore new trends and directions in designing and conducting surveys and censuses, in processing and analyzing the collected data, and in disseminating the results. Emphasis will be given to new methods and procedures that attempt to reduce costs while maintaining high standards of quality. This year's symposium will be expanded to feature both contributed and invited sessions, running in parallel. For more information, see the Statistics Canada Web page at <http://www.statcan.ca/english/symposium97/> or contact Jack Gambino, Statistics Canada, 16th floor RH Coats Building, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1A-0T6; telephone (163) 951-9334; fax (613) 951-3100; e-mail: sympos97@statcan.ca.

Seven New Fellows!

Seven members of the Survey Research Methods Section were elected Fellows of the American Statistical Association and will be inducted at the 1997 Joint Statistical Meetings in Chicago. Hearty congratulations go out to:

Cynthia Clark
Steven B. Cohen
Edward I. George
Carey T. Isaki
William D. Kalsbeek
James T. Massey (posthumous)
Elizabeth A. Stasny

Many thanks to Barbara Bailar (Chair) and the SRMS Committee on ASA Fellows for their efforts on behalf of our outstanding members.

Congratulations to our New Officers!!

Section Chair (in 1999)
Robert Groves

Program Chair (in 1999)
Nathaniel Schenker

Council of Sections Representative
(1998-2000)
Carol House

Newsletter Deadline....

Items for publication in the Winter 1997-1998 SRMS Newsletter should be submitted no later than November 1, 1997. Send items to Trena Ezzati-Rice at the National Center for Health Statistics, telephone (301) 436-7022 x133, e-mail tme1@cdc.gov or Elizabeth Zell at e-mail ezr1@cdc.gov.

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Section on Survey Research Methods is to promote the improvement of survey practice and the understanding of survey methods by encouraging both theoretical and applied research on survey-related topics and by disseminating information on survey methods.

Areas of interest for the Section include all that employ survey methodology as a focus or as a prime tool of investigation. Of special interest are:

- Theoretical foundations of sampling
- Sample design and estimation
- Nonsampling errors and data collection methods
- Analysis and presentation of survey data
- Education of the public and students on the importance of scientific survey research
- Publication and dissemination of survey research findings
- Ethics related to survey conduct and standards for survey practice

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